

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13-14, 23-24 and 27 are active in this application, claims 1-12 and 15 having been canceled, and claims 16-22, 25-26 and 28 having been withdrawn due to restriction. Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15. Claim 24 has been amended to correct the term “epoxy-type” to read --epoxy--. No new issues requiring further consideration or search are raised by these amendments, and accordingly, their entry is respectfully requested. The amendments are supported by claim 15 and by claim 24 as previously present. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Thompson for the indication of allowable subject matter in the present application. It is believed that upon entry of the present amendment, and rejoinder of the withdrawn claims, that all claims will be in condition for allowance.

The rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph has been obviated by correction of the term “epoxy-type” to read --epoxy--.

The rejections of claims 13 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Caccini and of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Caccini in view of Marten are believed obviated by amendment of claim 13 to require the limitations of claim 15, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable over the art of record.

Applicants respectfully request that the withdrawn claims be rejoined, as all claims are dependent from allowable claims and thus are themselves allowable.

Should the Examiner determine that there are any further issues that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants’ representative named below to expedite their resolution.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.
Norman F. Oblon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Derek Mason", is written over a horizontal line.

J. Derek Mason, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 35,270

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 07/09)